

REMARKS

Claims 1-58 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10-11, 13-16, 19, 21, 23-25, 28, 30-31, 33-36, 39, 41, 43-45, 48, 50-51, and 53-56 have been amended.

Claims 1, 3-8, 13-16, 18, 21, 23-28, 33-36, 38, 41, 43-48, 53-56, and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Win. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner and the undersigned attorney had a telephone conversation on January 27, 2005, during which they discussed claim 1. The Examiner stated that if the body of claim 1 were amended to describe a “virtual process” as being “a plurality of actual processes,” the claim would be patentable over Win. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1, 21, and 41 in this manner.

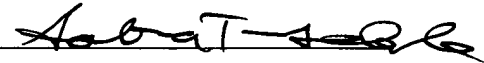
Claims 2, 22, and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Win in view of Hutchison. Claims 9-12, 17, 19-20, 29-32, 37, 39-40, 49-52, and 57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Win in view of O’Brien. Applicants respectfully traverse. These claims depend from their respective base claims, which the examiner agreed were patentable over Win. In addition, these claims recite other features not included in their respective base claims. Thus, claims 2, 22, and 42 are patentable over Win in view of Hutchison, and claims 9-12, 17, 19-20, 29-32, 37, 39-40, 49-52, and 57 are patentable over Win in view of O’Brien. Additionally, for the record, Applicants traverse the Examiner’s assertions concerning the disclosure of Hutchison and the motivation to combine Win and Hutchison, and concerning the disclosure of O’Brien and the motivation to combine Win and O’Brien.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are allowable over the cited art of record and request that the Examiner allow this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

XUN WILSON HUANG, et al.

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By: 

Sabra-Anne R. Truesdale

Reg. No. 55,687

Fenwick & West LLP

Silicon Valley Center

801 California Street

Mountain View, CA 94041

Tel.: (650) 335-7187

Fax.: (650) 938-5200